IAS officers in Jharkhand

814. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable decline in IAS cadre officers posted in Jharkhand;

(b) whether Government has received any representation regarding increasing the number of IAS cadre officers in Jharkhand; and

(c) if so, the details of actions taken in this regard with results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Government of India in consultation with State Governments determines the strength and composition of each of the cadres of IAS and also makes such alterations ordinarily at the interval of every five years. The total authorized strength of IAS cadre of Jharkhand has been increased from 129 in 2001 to 143 in 2005. As per IAS Civil List as on 1.1.2009 in Jharkhand 108 IAS officers were in position.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) It is for the Government of Jharkhand to ensure that at any given point of time adequate number of IAS officers against the authorized sanctioned strength are posted in the State Government In so far as Government of India is concerned it has been decided to give 04 direct recruit IAS officers to Jharkhand on the basis of CSE 2008. In addition, 24 vacancies in promotion quota of IAS cadre of Jharkhand have already been determined in consultation with the State Government.

Harassment of people seeking information under RTI

815. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases have come to notice from different States, especially the State Government of Bihar about harassment and even jail to persons seeking information under Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the number of such cases from each state since the Act was passed; and

(c) the steps that have been taken by Government against abuse of powers by Government officials concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Some news items have appeared in the press about harassment of persons seeking information under the Right to Information Act.

(b) Information is not centrally maintained.

(c) The Act has an inbuilt system whereby a complaint may be filed with the concerned Information Commission and the Commission may impose penalty on the public information officer.